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Montserrat

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. General

1. Montserrat[1] is situated in the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean, 43 kilometres south-west of Antigua and 64 kilometres north-west of the French Overseas Department of Guadeloupe. It has a maximum length of 18 kilometres and a maximum width of 11 kilometres and covers an area of 103 square kilometres. Its capital, Plymouth, was abandoned after the increase in volcanic activity in 1996.[2]

2. Montserrat is mountainous and of volcanic formation. In July 1995, the Montsoufriere volcano, dormant for more than 400 years, erupted, causing evacuation of more than one third of Montserrat's population from the southern part of the island to its northern "safe" areas in August 1995. The population of Montserrat, which in 1995 was 10,581, was estimated at 3,500 in February 1998 by the Chief Minister of Montserrat; the administering Power estimated the Territory's population at that time at 2,800.[3] The subsequent return of some evacuees increased the population to approximately 4,300 by the beginning of 1999.[4]

3. As of May 1999, the Territory, in conjunction with the administering Power, has a comprehensive programme in place for the reconstruction of the Montserrat economy.[5] However, the economic and social dislocation of the past four years remains a significant challenge to overcome.

II. Constitutional and political developments

4. According to information received from the administering Power, Montserrat is an internally self-governing Overseas Territory (formerly, Dependent Territory) of the United Kingdom. The Territory is administered by the United Kingdom under the Montserrat Constitution Order of 1989, which came into force in 1990. The Constitution provides for a Governor appointed by the Queen; an Executive Council comprising the Governor as President, the Chief Minister, three ministers and two ex officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary); and a Legislative Council, comprising a Speaker, two ex officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), seven elected members returned from single-member constituencies on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and two nominated members. Elections are held every five years on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The next elections are due to be held in 2001.

5. Ministerial responsibilities cover all areas of government business, with the exception of external affairs, internal security, defence, the public service, international financial services and areas for which the Governor is responsible. Following a survey of offshore financial services in the dependent Territories undertaken by the British Government in 1990, the special responsibilities of the Governor were extended to cover international financial services. During the Governor's absence, the Speaker of the Legislative Council acts as Governor.[2]

6. The current Governor of Montserrat, Mr. Anthony Abbot, was sworn in on 17 September 1997; Mr. David Brandt has been Chief Minister of Montserrat since August 1997.

7. In March 1999, the Government of the United Kingdom issued a White Paper on the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories". The paper is contained in the annex to document A/AC.109/1999/1; key recommendations are set out in paragraph 38 below.

III. Status of the Montsoufriere volcano

8. In July 1998, the administering Power commissioned the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) to evaluate the status of the Montsoufriere volcano. The evaluation was presented and discussed at a meeting held from 24 to 26 February 1999. The main points of the resulting report, entitled "Scientific and Hazards Assessment of the Soufriere Hills Volcano" and released on 12 March 1999, are as follows:

> "Growth of the lava dome at the Soufriere Hills Volcano ceased in early March 1998 when the magmatic eruption stopped. There has been residual activity and instability over the last year, but no sign of the magmatic eruption starting again. The post-eruptive residual volcanic activity has included occasional collapse of the lava dome to generate pyroclastic flows, vigorous venting of ash and gas sometimes accompanied by small explosions and the generation of small but mobile pyroclastic flows, occasional swarms of volcano-tectonic earthquakes, and continued ground deformation on the eastern flanks of the volcano. There is also a large amount of loose volcanic debris and ash on the slopes of the volcano which has been remobilized to form volcanic mudflows during periods of heavy rain.
>
> "The residual activity over the last year is thought to have been caused by the continued release

and ascent of volcanic gases from the source of the magma deeper in the earth. The rise of pressurized gas makes the dome unstable, is associated with the continued low level earthquake activity and is responsible for minor explosions, some pyroclastic flows and the ash venting. Such activity is known at other volcanoes as an eruption is ending and may continue for many years. However, the scale and magnitude of this activity and the associated hazards are expected to diminish with time.

"The residual activity together with the occurrence of volcanic mudflows during intense rainfall and the substantial amounts of volcanic ash deposits will continue to pose a number of hazards in southern Montserrat. ...

"The meeting reconsidered the issue of the likelihood of no further magmatic eruption in the next six months (previously assessed at about 95 per cent probability in the July 1998 study) and, on the strength of the evidence gathered in the intervening period, concluded that there was no significant new information or basis for revising this estimate.

"The results of the July 1998 elicitation on the chances of magmatic activity resuming over the longer term were also reviewed, and no changes were proposed to the estimates provided previously (i.e. 15 per cent probability of reactivation within five years; 25 per cent probability within 10 to 30 years).

"The present assessment, taking account of the possibility of both magmatic and non-magmatic activity, indicates a slight reduction in overall risk compared with the July 1998 appraisal. The results of the latter indicated that the risk levels in the populated areas of Montserrat were no worse than those to which populations on other Caribbean islands with dormant volcanoes have been historically exposed. The risks in the currently populated areas of Montserrat remain low to negligible on the Chief Medical Officer's Risk Scale, with annualized individual risk exposure values ranging from about 1 in 2,500 in parts of Area 4 marginal to the Belham valley, to less than 1 in 200,000 for Area 1. However, the increase in population numbers on Montserrat in recent months suggests that the societal risk of multiple casualties in the event of renewed magmatic eruption may be slightly increased. ...

"Continued careful monitoring of the volcano is required to help minimize exposure to residual hazards and to ensure identification of any signs of resumption of magmatic eruption.

"MVO is confident that renewed magma ascent can be detected and that escalation to dangerous levels of activity can be recognized. In some circumstances, escalation might take place in a very short period of time (a matter of hours). However, any warning helps to significantly reduce the risk exposure of the population below that estimated for an unprepared society, and risks will be continuously reassessed by the MVO."[6]

IV. Economic conditions

A. Public finance

9. On 30 March 1999, the Chief Minister, in presenting the 1999 budget, summarized the continuing effects of the 1995 and 1997 eruptions of the Montsoufriere volcano.[7] As in 1997, the Montserrat economy continued to be characterized by reduced private sector economic activity, resulting in further reductions in government revenues and fiscal deficits. Revenue collected in 1998 amounted to 22.6 million Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC$), an 18 per cent decline from 1997; government expenditures were EC$ 58.4 million, representing an 8 per cent decline from 1997. Of that expenditure, "ordinary" expenditure (i.e. non-crisis-related) was EC$ 43.9 million; "emergency" expenditure was EC$ 14.5 million.

10. For 1999, recurrent expenditure is projected to be EC$ 56.9 million and locally raised recurrent revenue to be EC$ 22.8 million. The administering Power has offered budgetary aid in the amount of approximately EC$ 34 million to finance this gap.[7]

11. The Chief Minister announced that the road network upgrading programme started in 1998 to service the concentration of the population in the safe one third of the island would be expanded in 1999. With respect to port development, fenders were installed at Little Bay during 1998; negotiations on building a warehouse at the site are ongoing. Expanded helicopter service and rehabilitation of the W. H. Bramble airport, which was evacuated in 1997, are also expected to begin in 1999.

12. According to a government press release, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has agreed to restructure Montserrat's debt. CDB is the principal creditor of the Government of Montserrat, representing approximately 70 per cent of the Government's annual debt

service. The agreement between CDB and the territorial Government provides for moratoriums of varying length on the principal and/or interest of 7 of the 12 loans held by CDB.[9]

B. Tourism

13. The tourism sector experienced an increase in the number of visitor arrivals from 5,000 in 1997 to 6,000 in 1998. However, those figures should be compared with 17,700 in 1995 and 8,700 in 1996. The negative impact of reduced visitor expenditure on the economy has been significant. Earnings from the tourism sector fell drastically from EC$ 58.1 million in 1995 to EC$ 13 million in 1998; the 1998 figure represented an increase of approximately 9 per cent over 1997.

C. Economic activity, employment and population

14. Insurance coverage has been re-established on Montserrat for homes and business premises; this is expected to have a considerable positive impact on private sector investment, rebuilding houses and business premises and overall recovery.[10]

15. The increase in economic activity in 1998 was owing mainly to public investment in infrastructure, although private home building and commercial building activity also played a role. In 1998, there were approximately 290 building starts, with an estimated completion value of EC$ 33.7 million. Of these, more than 140 were government-funded housing units (EC$ 17 million).

16. The rate of unemployment increased from 10 per cent in 1995 to 20 per cent in 1996. Opportunities for employment in construction in 1997 have significantly reversed the situation, and labour has had to be sought from overseas. Unemployment was recorded at 7.7 per cent at the end of 1997 and 5 per cent in March 1998. The Montserrat Social Survey noted that the labour force had shrunk to 1,517 workers, with the Government employing the most people on the island, namely, 33.1 per cent of the workforce. Construction accounted for almost 14 per cent, health and social work 10.7 per cent and wholesale and retail 8.7 per cent.[11] Inflation remained relatively high at around 5 per cent, and was attributed largely to increases in building rents.[12]

17. In June 1997, the Territory's population was estimated at 7,500. By August 1997, the population had further declined to 5,800, as additional residents relocated after volcanic eruptions in June and July 1997.[13] The population of the island declined further, owing to growing danger of volcanic activity. Currently, the population of Montserrat is estimated at 4,300 (see para. 2 above). According to press reports, the administering Power has announced that it will underwrite the airfare of Montserratians who wish to return from abroad.[14]

18. As a direct result of the volcano emergency situation, exports in 1998 declined to EC$ 3.4 million, compared with the EC$ 22 million recorded in 1997, before the closing down of the rice mill and electronic components factory, which had been major producers of export earnings in the previous years. Imports dropped from EC$ 80 million in 1997 to EC$ 72 million in 1998; this decrease in part reflects the decrease in population from early 1997.

D. Agriculture and the private sector

19. The agriculture sector declined further during the period under review. Prior to mid-1995, the sector employed approximately 6 per cent of the labour force and used an estimated 1,500 hectares, or 15 per cent, of total land area. In 1997, much emphasis was placed on acquiring, preparing and bringing into production as much suitable land as possible. The area of land under agricultural production by the end of 1997 was in excess of 16 hectares (40 acres). About half of this was located in a government project at Brades. The land was being used almost exclusively for vegetable production with the aim of reducing the level of food imports. By October 1998, the area under cultivation had increased to 24 hectares (60 acres).[10] The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a number of plans to assist farms in those areas, and there has been some assistance provided by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

20. The private sector was severely affected by the volcanic crisis. As part of the economic recovery, between May 1998 and February 1999, the Private Sector Rehabilitation project, administered by the National Development Foundation, disbursed 34 loans for a value of EC$ 1.7 million. The administering Power provided approximately EC$ 2 million to the National Development Foundation for that programme.

E. Sustainable Development Plan and Country Policy Plan

21. In the face of the economic disruptions caused by the ongoing volcano crisis, the Government of Montserrat and the administering Power have signed a comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and Country Policy Plan, which establish the framework and direction of development in Montserrat until 2002. In 1999, these plans call for:

(a) Provision of further serviced plots for housing development;

(b) Reorientation of water storage and reticulation systems to supply new customers in the north of the island;

(c) Commencement of withdrawal from services which were previously provided by the private sector;

(d) The overhaul of fiscal and pricing policies and introduction of strategies to simplify and strengthen collection techniques;

(e) Programmes for potential privatization, contracting out and private finance initiatives in operation;

(f) Establishment of internationally competitive clear and non-discretionary inward investment legislation;

(g) Access to health services improved through a strengthened district level delivery system with an emphasis on primary and preventative care;

(h) Improvements in the provision of nursery, primary and secondary facilities.[10]

V. Social and educational conditions

A. Education

22. In 1998, there were four government primary schools in operation in the designated safe zone, accommodating children from the non-evacuated as well as the evacuated areas. There are two private primary schools, one private secondary school and one amalgamated government secondary school with three campuses.[15]

B. Housing

23. In 1999, the territorial Government intends to assist 340 families to build homes through both "direct-build" and "self-build" schemes, including material grant assistance and a concessionary mortgage scheme. In support of this project, the Government will draw down its reserves by EC$ 1.5 million in order to help finance additional "self-build" housing. The Ministry of Housing and the Land Development Authority of Montserrat have identified 808 families that still require housing.

C. Health

24. According to press reports, community health clinics, with free services for Montserratians, are in operation in the safe zone in three locations (St. Peter's, Cudjoe Head and St. John's). In addition, there are two private medical practitioners and one private dental practitioner on the island.[14]

25. During 1998, a new block was added to the hospital facilities in the designated safe zone, including two patient wards, isolation rooms, and a maternity ward. A wing containing a pharmacy, laboratory and administrative offices will be completed in mid-1999.[7]

26. According to the evaluation presented and discussed at a Montserrat Volcano Observatory meeting held from 24 to 26 February 1999, air quality continues to be adversely affected by volcanic ash. Recent evaluations of ash in Salem and Old Towne show that the composition of the ash is dominated by a fine, respirable fraction containing 15 to 25 per cent cristobalite, which can cause the respiratory illness silicosis.[6]

D. Community

27. Of ongoing concern is the disruption of social ties and communities as a result of the volcanic crisis. According to the Montserrat Sustainable Development Plan, completed in November 1998:

> "Only 26 per cent of households have not had to relocate. Eighteen per cent of households were living in shelters and 20 per cent were sharing accommodation either as 'guests' or 'hosts'. The destruction in social structures has led to an increase in vulnerability to change due to the dislocation of family and community networks. Changes in age structures have also increased dependency on welfare provision. For example, 18 per cent of the resident population were over 60 years of age. ...
>
> "Prior to the volcanic activity, social welfare in Montserrat was achieved through a combination of publicly financed initiatives and non-State activities.

Strong community and family relationships were the basis of a support and assistance network which combined effectively with limited targeted public assistance for the most vulnerable. Education and certain health services were provided free at the point of delivery for all Montserratians.

"The policy approach, objectives and targeting of the pre-volcano system have been distorted by measures introduced to cope with emergency conditions, in particular with respect to housing and income, as individuals and families have lost their homes and livelihoods. The associated break-up of families and communities has also meant that individuals are now much more dependent upon the State than in previous times.

"A key theme to emerge during the preparation of the Sustainable Development Plan was the desire by individuals to continue to have access to support mechanisms from the State during the period of crisis and redevelopment. Ultimately, there is a need for such structures to be replaced as the development envisaged in the Sustainable Development Plan creates opportunities for families and individuals to rebuild their livelihoods and communities.

"Government is committed to improving the effectiveness of the support it currently offers by reviewing the whole structure of welfare in order that it can be more efficiently coordinated, better targeted and delivered more economically with the ultimate goal of reducing rather than increasing dependency in the longer term. Such a transition is not considered fully possible until the medium term. However, the Social Welfare Review (commenced in September 1998) stresses the fact that a more targeted system can be developed quickly and that a combination of government provision for the most needy, the re-establishment of independence and encouragement of community responses to welfare needs is the best way forward."[10]

E. Human rights

28. In a report submitted to the United Nations Committee against Torture under article 19 of the Convention on 1 April 1998, the administering Power made the following statements with respect to Montserrat:

"Since the submission and examination of the second periodic report under the Convention in respect of Montserrat, the life of the population of the Territory has been dramatically affected — indeed catastrophically disrupted — by the eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano. ...

"Despite this situation, the Government and people of Montserrat remain firmly committed to the principles of the Convention and the Government of the Territory will continue at all times to seek to ensure that the requirements of the Convention are as scrupulously observed as circumstances permit. ... There have been no relevant changes in the law since the previous reports and, certainly, there have been no alleged incidents of torture or of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. As previously reported, judicial corporal punishment was abolished in Montserrat as far back as 1991.

"Nevertheless, the physical and economic difficulties under which Montserrat is now labouring have, in one field that is relevant to the Convention, necessitated the adoption of arrangements that it is acknowledged are unsatisfactory but that cannot immediately be ameliorated. As explained above, with the destruction of Plymouth Montserrat also suffered the destruction of its prison. Since then, largely ad hoc arrangements have had to be made for the accommodation of prisoners."[16]

29. According to press reports, there are currently facilities to house prisoners for short periods of time. The majority of prisoners with longer sentences are sent to other Overseas Territories administered by the United Kingdom; rarely, prisoners serve their time in the United Kingdom.[17]

VI. Assistance provided by the United Nations, other international organizations and the administering Power

30. United Nations assistance to Montserrat is provided mainly through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which maintains programmes of technical cooperation with five Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean, including Montserrat. While the extent and focus of these programmes vary from one Territory to another, in general, they are all executed in conformity with UNDP Guidelines for the implementation of successor programming arrangements and relevant decisions of the UNDP Executive Board, particularly those concerning the focus and allocation of assistance under each programming cycle, and in

conformity with relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

31. During the fifth cycle, a significant portion of UNDP's external development cooperation with Montserrat was focused on management and preservation of the environment. Physical planning was a major component of the programme, which established a Physical Planning Unit with trained staff. The country benefited from a range of inputs from UNDP that placed it in a position comparable to that of most Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries in terms of the development and implementation of environment-related policies and programmes, and the strengthening of institutions to sustain them.

32. UNDP assistance was complemented by other donors, among them the British Government, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Swedish International Development Agency, the German Technical Cooperation Agency, the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the European Union, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The bulk of development assistance was directed towards solid and liquid waste management, watershed and coastal zone management, environmental education and awareness, disaster management and physical planning.

33. After the first volcanic eruptions in 1995, UNDP provided emergency resources of US$ 165,000 for emergency shelter and housing efforts. That money has been used as part of the funding for the CARICOM Village, a housing project administered by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). UNDP has also provided technical support to the territorial Government in civil engineering, environmental planning, disaster management and preparedness. Support for the Government's sustainable development strategy will be the ongoing focus of UNDP efforts in the Territory.[18]

34. On 26 January 1999, the Executive Board of UNDP and of the United Nations Population Fund authorized the Administrator to shift support of programmes in Montserrat to a case-by-case basis, as requested by the territorial Government. That decision was reached after a review of the current situation in the Territory.[19]

35. According to press reports, the European Union has allocated at least 16 million ecus to Montserrat, of which 8 million are to be used for airport reconstruction and the rest for poverty-alleviation programmes, such as home-building projects.[9]

36. In paragraph 7.10 of the above-mentioned White Paper, the administering Power summarized its aid to Montserrat as follows:

> "We have committed £75 million to Montserrat for the three-year period 1998/99–2000/01. This is additional to the £59 million spent in the three years since the volcanic crisis started in 1995. Our support finances budgetary aid and the rebuilding of the north of the island where the remaining population live (4,500). We are also providing support for evacuees in the Caribbean region and have financed passages for evacuees to the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and North America. The costs of supporting evacuees once they arrive in Britain are met by the relevant Home Departments. We agreed with the Government of Montserrat in November 1998 on a Sustainable Development Plan setting out broad policies needed for economic and social recovery of the island. This formed the basis of the joint Country Policy Plan agreed in January 1999, which includes an indicative investment programme for the period to March 2001."[2]

VII. Participation in regional organizations and arrangements

37. The Territory continues to be a member of CARICOM and OECS, as well as of the institutions associated with both groups, including the University of the West Indies, CDB and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. Montserrat is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary bodies. The Territory is represented at the meetings of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development, sponsored by the World Bank.

VIII. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the administering Power

38. Key recommendations of the administering Power are noted below:

(a) In future the Territories would be known as the United Kingdom Overseas Territories, in short, Overseas Territories;

(b) British citizenship (and so the right of abode) would be offered to those people of the Overseas Territories who did not already enjoy it and who met certain conditions;

(c) Those who did not want to take it up would be able to remain British Dependent Territories citizens;

(d) British Overseas Citizens would not be included in this offer, nor would it apply to people who owed their British Dependent Territories citizenship to links with the British Indian Ocean Territory or the Sovereign Bases on Cyprus;

(e) The offer of citizenship would be on a non-reciprocal basis (as far as the right of abode is concerned). No conditional links have been made between the offer and other obligations set out in the White Paper;

(f) Administrative and representational arrangements would include:

(i) The establishment of parallel Overseas Territories structures in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development;

(ii) The appointment of Baroness Symons as Minister with responsibility for the Overseas Territories;

(iii) The creation of an Overseas Territories Consultative Council to bring together British Ministers and the Chief Ministers of the Overseas Territories or their equivalents;

(iv) The designation of a First Secretary in the office of the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the European Union as the point of contact for the Overseas Territories with the European Union;

(g) In terms of good governance, provision would be made for:

(i) Improved regulation of the financial service industries in the Overseas Territories to meet internationally acceptable standards and to combat financial crime and regulatory abuse;

(ii) Measures to promote greater cooperation with international regulators and law enforcers so as to share information and improve worldwide financial regulation;

(iii) Enhanced measure to combat drug trafficking and drug-related crime;

(iv) Reform of local legislation in some Territories to comply with the same standards of human rights as those existing in the United Kingdom with regard to capital punishment, judicial corporal punishment and consensual homosexual acts. If local action is not taken Her Majesty's Government would enforce the necessary changes;

(h) Measures for sustainable development would include:

(i) Partnership between Her Majesty's Government and the Overseas Territories to promote economic growth and self-sufficiency;

(ii) Confirmation that the reasonable assistance needs of the Overseas Territories would be a priority in the development programme;

(iii) Continued budgetary aid for Montserrat and St. Helena;

(iv) Strengthened procedures and guidelines on borrowing by the Overseas Territories;

(v) Enhanced policies, legislation and standards for the protection and management of the rich natural environment of the Territories;

(vi) Increased funds (£1.5 million over three years) to assist in creating and implementing environmental programmes;

(vii) Agreement of an environmental charter between the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories;

(viii) Technical support, training and cooperative schemes to build local capacity to manage and monitor the environment.

B. Position of the territorial Government

39. On 30 March 1999, in presenting the 1999 budget, the Chief Minister of Montserrat acknowledged the publication of the White Paper on relations between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, as follows:

> "We feel that this is a welcome opportunity for a full review of the constitutional relationship between the United Kingdom and the colony of Montserrat. Perhaps the time has come for all Montserratians to be given the chance to discuss and determine the nature and the terms of our future constitutional status, and for such an exercise to produce a constitution over which we can claim true ownership and acceptance. Government is therefore considering the appointment of a constitutional commission to undertake the review and to make proposals for constitutional change. These

proposals would draw on the work of the Electoral Commission which is presently ongoing, but would naturally adopt a much wider scope and purpose."[7]

C. Consideration by the General Assembly

40. On 3 December 1998, at its 78th plenary meeting, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 53/67, section VII of which concerns Montserrat.

41. On 16 December 1997, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/169 J, entitled "Emergency assistance to Montserrat", in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, expressed its solidarity and support to the Government and people of Montserrat; called upon all States to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and called upon UNDP to finalize its proposals for a package of emergency assistance to Montserrat at the earliest possible time; called upon the Secretary-General to monitor the situation in Montserrat with a view to assessing the ecological and development impacts of the continuing volcanic eruptions as well as to assisting in the long-term needs of Montserratians, including the needs of evacuees and their rehabilitation; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the situation in Montserrat and on the progress made with the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Notes

[1] The information contained in the present paper has been derived from published reports and information available on the Internet. The facts and figures presented in the working paper are the latest information available.

[2] "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories", United Kingdom White Paper, March 1999, (A/AC.109/1999/1, annex).

[3] *Trinidad and Tobago; Guyana; Suriname; Netherlands Antilles; Aruba; Windward and Leeward Islands, 1st quarter 1998. The Economist* Intelligence Unit, p. 74.

[4] Reuters, 11 January 1999.

[5] 1999 Montserrat Budget (www.mratgov.com/budget_speech_1999.htm), 30 March 1999; "New Plans for the Development of Montserrat" United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, www.fco.gov.uk, 11 June 1999.

[6] "Scientific and Hazards Assessment of the Soufriere Hills Volcano", Montserrat Volcano Observatory, 12 March 1999.

[7] 1999 Montserrat Budget (www.mratgov.com/budget_speech_1999.htm), 30 March 1999.

[8] The Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC$) is used in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It currently trades at approximately EC$ 2.7 to US$ 1.

[9] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 30 April 1999.

[10] "Montserrat Social and Economic Recovery Programme — a Path to Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Plan)", November 1998, http://www.mninet.com/devunit/Sustainable Development Plan/index.htm.

[11] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 13 March 1998.

[12] CANA news agency, Bridgetown, 25 April 1998.

[13] *1998 Caribbean Basin Profile*, p. 313.

[14] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 7 May 1999.

[15] *1998 Caribbean Basin Profile*, p. 315.

[16] CAT/C/44/Add.1.

[17] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 26 February 1999.

[18] DP/CCF/MOT/1.

[19] DP/1999/12.